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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FORMER MARYLAND DIVISION OF PAROLE AND PROBATION EMPLOYEE  
INDICTED FOR EXTORTION**

**Baltimore**, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that a federal grand jury has indicted Yolanda Renee Johnson, age 33, of Baltimore, Maryland, who was formerly employed by the Maryland Division of Parole and Probation, for extorting money from persons under her supervision. The twenty-three count indictment charges Johnson with soliciting money from probationers in exchange for special consideration, such as agreeing to reduce their level of supervision, terminating it altogether or not reporting to the sentencing judge the commission of an alleged probation violation.

According to the indictment Johnson had the job title of Drinking Driver Monitor in the Drinking and Driving Monitoring Program (DDMP). In her capacity as a monitor with that program, Johnson supervised probationers convicted of driving while intoxicated (DWI) and driving while under the influence of alcohol (DUI). To insure that the probationers under her supervision successfully completed the terms of their probation, Johnson's job responsibilities included weekly or monthly in-person contact with probationers to ensure compliance with directives of the courts and licensing restrictions of the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA); verification of

probationers' attendance at alcohol treatment and education programs; verification of probationers' abstinence from driving and use of alcohol or drugs; requiring probationers to take urinalysis or breathalyser tests; and conducting periodic checks of criminal and traffic databases for subsequent criminal and DWI offenses.

The indictment alleges that between December 2003 and August 2004, Johnson solicited twenty-three convicted DWI offenders for money. Approximately twenty of the probationers Johnson approached paid her between \$100 and \$325 to avoid being reported for a probation violation or to have their court-mandated probationary conditions reduced or curtailed.

The defendant was arrested this morning and an initial appearance is scheduled at 3:00 pm before a magistrate judge in federal court. The maximum penalty for extortion under color of law is twenty years of imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of a joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Baltimore County Police Department, the Internal Investigative Unit of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the United States Attorney's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Martin Clarke.